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Employment and Earnings, Public Sector, Australia

Contains estimates of public sector employees and cash wages and salaries by level of government, state and industry

Reference period 2019-20 financial year

Released 12/11/2020

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Key statistics

There were 2,041,200 public sector employees at the end of June 2020 comprising:

- 246,000 employees in Commonwealth government;
- 1,609,100 in state government; and
- 186,000 in local government.

Total public sector cash wages and salaries in 2019-20 was \$174,139.5 million.

Main features

	Employees June 2020	Cash wages and salaries 2019-20
	'000	\$m
Commonwealth Government	246.0	22 414.3
State Government	1 609.1	138 175.3
Local Government	186.0	13 550.0
Total Public Sector	2 041.2	174 139.5

Coverage

- Although earnings estimates relate to the full twelve months of the financial year, employment estimates relate to the last pay period ending in June of the given year. Given these differences, the ABS does not recommend using these components together to calculate average earnings.
- Estimates in this release may differ from other available information due to differences in coverage and/or the classification of organisations. For further details, refer to paragraphs 33-38 of the Methodology.

Tables

1. Public sector employees, level of government - states and territories

	June 2019				June 2020			
	C'wealth	State	Local	Total	C'wealth	State	Local	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
NSW	53.4	485.5	57.2	596.1	54.7	486.6	54.6	595.9
Vic.	48.8	386.7	52.5	488.0	49.3	381.2	50.3	480.8
Qld	28.1	341.2	43.1	412.5	29.0	341.6	42.5	413.1
SA	14.0	122.2	10.9	147.1	14.0	119.6	10.4	144.1
WA	12.8	177.6	23.2	213.5	13.1	181.0	21.4	215.6
Tas.	5.1	np	np	53.3	5.2	44.9	4.0	54.0
NT	4.1	28.4	2.9	35.4	3.6	28.0	2.8	34.4
ACT(a)	75.7	np	np	100.6	77.1	26.2	..	103.3
Australia	242.1	1 610.6	194.0	2 046.7	246.0	1 609.1	186.0	2 041.2

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

.. not applicable

a. The ACT Local and State government estimates have been combined in June 2020 for confidentiality reasons. The result is displayed under the ACT State estimate and associated totals.

2. Public sector cash wages and salaries, level of government - states and territories

	2018-19				2019-20			
	C'wealth	State	Local	Total	C'wealth	State	Local	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
NSW	4 740.4	38 824.4	4 035.4	47 600.2	4 819.9	40 977.9	4 086.8	49 884.5
Vic.	4 494.7	30 791.4	3 260.7	38 546.9	4 513.3	32 568.0	3 296.5	40 377.8
Qld	2 306.3	28 531.6	3 296.8	34 134.7	2 332.2	30 125.1	3 403.1	35 860.4
SA	1 250.3	9 860.2	803.5	11 914.0	1 226.9	10 124.5	829.7	12 181.0
WA	1 032.9	15 049.1	1 469.3	17 551.3	1 044.1	15 545.1	1 489.7	18 078.9
Tas.	431.9	np	np	4 083.5	428.1	3 593.4	270.9	4 292.4
NT	326.1	2 750.8	171.9	3 248.8	289.2	2 819.7	173.4	3 282.3
ACT(a)	7 572.5	np	np	9 814.6	7 760.6	2 421.6	..	10 182.2
Australia	22 155.1	131 441.3	13 297.4	166 893.8	22 414.3	138 175.3	13 550.0	174 139.5

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

.. not applicable

a. The ACT Local and State government estimates have been combined in 2019-20 for confidentiality reasons. The result is displayed under the ACT State estimate and associated totals.

3. Public sector employees and cash wages and salaries, industry

	Employees		Cash wages and salaries	
	June 2019	June 2020	2018-19	2019-20
	'000	'000	\$m	\$m
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	48.9	50.5	5 475.7	5 694.0
Construction	8.6	6.2	879.7	612.2
Transport, postal and warehousing	82.5	79.3	7 426.0	7 344.1
Information media and telecommunications	16.9	16.5	1 729.2	1 718.6
Financial and insurance services	13.1	14.0	1 530.5	1 703.2
Rental, hiring and real estate services	5.2	4.9	440.3	461.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	26.5	26.6	2 538.1	2 664.9
Public administration and safety	636.8	637.4	54 843.2	56 520.3
Education and training	648.8	634.0	45 449.2	47 904.7
Health care and social assistance	526.9	543.3	44 389.8	47 220.0
Arts and recreation services	19.0	14.9	1 131.4	1 135.9
Other industries(a)	13.6	13.5	1 060.6	1 160.7
All industries	2 046.7	2 041.2	166 893.8	174 139.5

a. Includes Agriculture, forestry and fishing, Mining, Manufacturing, Wholesale trade, Retail trade, Accommodation and food services, Administrative and support services and Other services.

Inquiries

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070. The [ABS Privacy Policy](https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/Privacy?opendocument#from-banner=GB) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/Privacy?opendocument#from-banner=GB>) outlines how the ABS will handle any personal information that you provide to us.

Data downloads

Public sector employees and cash wages and salaries

[Download XLS](#)

[1.18 MB]

Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6248.0.55.002.

Methodology

[Employment and Earnings, Public Sector, Australia methodology, 2019-20 financial year](#)